

STARRED QUESTIONS

(TO WHICH ORAL ANSWERS WERE GIVEN)

SRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA —As I have to attend the De-limitation Committee meeting I request the Chair to take my Question first.

MADM SPEAKER.—Yes.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(TO WHICH ORAL ANSWERS WERE GIVEN)

IRREGULARITIES IN KABINI AND UPPER KRISHNA PROJECTS

465. SRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA (Holenarasipur).—

Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Government has referred to the Vigilance Commission certain irregularities committed in the execution of the Kabini and Upper Krishna Projects;

(b) if so the nature of irregularities referred to for enquiry and when they were referred in respect of each project;

(c) the financial implications of the irregularities referred to the Vigilance Commission;

(d) whether Government has received any report from the Vigilance Commission;

(e) the action taken by Government on the report of the Vigilance Commission?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—

(a) Yes.

(b) *Kabini Project* :—Higher and wrong classifications in the excavation of Right Bank Canal were noticed and referred to Vigilance Commission for investigation in September 1972.

Upper Krishna Project :—Higher classification and increase in cost of the excavation of Narayanapur Left Bank Canal were noticed and referred for investigation to the Vigilance Commission in July 1973

(c) the exact financial implications in the case of Upper Krishna are yet to be determined. In the case of Kabini it is reported that excess payment amounts to Rs. 3.05 lakhs.

(d) and (e).—

(i) In respect of Upper Krishna Project, the Report has revealed payment on data rates resulting in excess payment. The permissibility of these data rates with reference to the Agreement and Schedule of Rates is being examined.

(ii) In respect of Kabini, a report of Investigation was received and Government has ordered in June 1973, a regular departmental enquiry against the concerned officers and the enquiry is entrusted to the Vigilance Commission.

The report of enquiry is awaited.

SRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA.—What is the report of the Vigilance Commission so far as preliminary report is concerned? You have referred the matter to the Vigilance Commission in September 1972. Subsequently you got the Vigilance Commission's preliminary report. Again in June 1973, it was referred for further enquiry. So, I would like to know what are the findings of the Commission so far as its preliminary report is concerned?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—There is report to the effect that nearly Rs 34 lakhs of over-payment has been made. This is with regard to Krishna Project. But, in Kabini Project, about Rs. 3-05 lakhs of excess payment was made.

SRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA.—May I know the names of officers involved in this case as per the preliminary report of the Vigilance Commission?

SRI DEVARAJ URS.—There are about 17 Officers involved in the case of Kabini Project.

As regards Krishna Project, I do not have the figures and if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition wants, I can give.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಡಿ. ದೇವೇಗೌಡ.—ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು 17 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು, ಕಬಿನಿ ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟಿನದು 3.05 ಲಕ್ಷ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದೀರಿ. ಒಟ್ಟು 22 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭೀಸರುಗಳು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದು ಕಾನೂನಿಗೆ ವಿರೋಧವಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ರೀತಿ ಅಭೀಸರುಗಳು ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಹಣವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೂಡ ಅವರನ್ನು ಸಸ್ಪೆನ್ಷನ್ ಕೂಡ ಮಾಡದೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ವತಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದೀರಿ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ದಯೆ ಮಾಡಿ ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತೀರಾ?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—That is a matter which we have to decide after we get the final report. Some times, it so happens that we have seen instances where we have suspended Officers but in final analysis, the charges have not proved. While making suspension orders, the Government wants to be careful in a sense that we do not want to unnecessarily resort to the Rules that are in existence unless it becomes absolutely necessary in the opinion of the Government. It has come to the notice of the Government on many occasions that the Officers have been kept under suspension not for two or three months, but for three years, 4 years in some cases. Judged by

(SRI D. DEVARAJ URS)

any standard, this is rather not good in the interest of maintaining a certain amount of credibility so far as Officers are concerned. It will affect the morale of the Officers also. We have to take a decision whether to punish or not to punish. Unfortunately, what is happening is, these investigation some times go on for any length of time and as a result of which the Government will not be in a position to take a decision and action, till then. If we take our own time to get the things investigated and take decisions, till then, the Officers will have to be kept under suspension. Apart from affecting the moral of the Officer, it also affects the economy of the Administration because we will have to give subsistence allowance to such Officers during the period of suspension. We cannot keep an Officer without giving any money, and without any salary. We have to give certain percentage of his salary as subsistence allowance. It may be 50% of his salary. Without doing any work, the Government will have to pay him, with the result, We are losing at least 50% of his salary. These are all the factors that we have to consider before we take any decision.

In some cases, what I found was, we have to later on re-instate them, because the charges were not proved. Therefore, we want to make sure before we give any suspension order whether there are possibilities of certain charges which could stand. We cannot judge the results; Ultimately the Government must be in a position to reasonably suspect that these charges are likely to stand. Then only, we consider the question of passing suspension order.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಡಿ. ದೇವೇಗೌಡ. ಈ ಎರಡು ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜಿಲೆನ್ಸ್ ಕಮಿಷನರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಿಲಿಮಿನರಿ ಎನ್ಕ್ವೈರಿಯಾಗಿ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ 32 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ದುರುಪಯೋಗವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ವರದಿ ಬಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರೈಮಾಫೇಸಿ ಕೇಸು ಇದೆಯೆಂಬುದು ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅಡ್ಮಿನಿಸ್ಟ್ರೇಷನ್ ಟೋನಸ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕ್ರಮತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಪಡೆಯಲಿವೇ ?

Is it not the practice of the Government to keep the Officer concerned under suspension after the preliminary report is received if there is a prima facie case?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.— That is what I said. Sometimes, It is always in the discretion of the Government as to how these Officer should be dealt with depending on each case.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಡಿ. ದೇವೇಗೌಡ.—ಇದು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ದಿವಸಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಗಿಯಬಹುದು?

SRI D. DEVARAJ URS.—We are requesting the Vigilance Commission to give its report as early as possible. They are also short of time and personnel.